

REMARKS

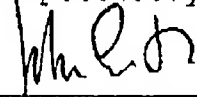
The examiner has asserted that the amendments submitted in the reply to the Office Action dated October 7, 2003 raise new issues and therefore has not entered the proposed amendments. The examiner has indicated that claims 7 and 9 would be allowable if submitted in a separate amendment. The examiner further indicated, in the Office Action dated October 7, 2003, that claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form incorporating all limitations of original claim 1 and original claim 2.

Applicant has submitted claims 7 and 9 in independent form. Applicant submits that claims 7 and 9 are patentable over Ueno et al.

Applicant has amended claim 2 to include all limitations of original claim 1. Applicant therefore submits that amended claim 2 is allowable. Applicant further submits that dependent claims 3-6 and 8 are therefore also allowable.

Applicant has cancelled claims 1 and 11-14. Cancellation of claims 1 and 11-14 should not be interpreted as acquiescence in the examiner's rejections of those claims. Applicant reserves the right to seek further prosecution of the cancelled claims in a continuing application.

Respectfully submitted,



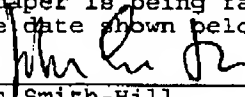
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